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## Office of Transition Initiatives

# KENYA



### OTI MISSION STATEMENT

*To support U.S. foreign policy objectives by helping local partners advance peace and democracy in priority countries in crisis. Seizing critical windows of opportunity, OTI works on the ground to provide fast, flexible, short-term assistance targeted at key political transition and stabilization needs.*

### FAST FACTS

Start Date: January 2011  
Budget: \$7.9 million in TI funds;  
\$1.7 million in ESF funds;  
\$300,000 in 1207 funds (FY11)  
\$9.9 million (to date)

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Kenya Transition Initiative (KTI) program, implemented through USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI), was initiated in June 2008 following post-election violence that shook the country. The goal of the program is to continue to support stability with unity in Kenya by contributing to a politically modern Kenya, centered on national identity rather than ethnicity. KTI centers on a two-pronged effort supporting the institutional and grassroots reforms outlined in the February 2008 National Accord, including a constitutional review, youth employment, police reform, and land reform. An additional youth empowerment component focused in Nairobi's Eastleigh neighborhood was also initiated during the reporting period.

The program assists Kenyan state and non-state actors to exercise more fully their capacities and, thereby, support the following broad objectives:

- Enable public institutions to undertake fundamental reforms and to manage instability and uncertainty.
- Mobilize the public, especially the youth and key change agents, to demand accountability and reform.
- Build moderation, foster identity and self-confidence in at risk youth in Eastleigh in order to enable them to reject extremism.

KTI was implemented by Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI), under a task order that closed in May 2011. Chemonics is implementing KTI through May 2013, since startup in January 2011. This report covers the period September 15, 2011 through December 31, 2011.

### PROGRAM AREAS

**Alternative Leadership.** KTI has provided significant support to mobilize Kenyans, particularly youth, to call for meaningful reforms and to reduce the negative influence of politicians capitalizing on ethnic tensions, especially during and after elections. In national elections anticipated in late 2012, Kenyans will elect a new president and a host of local offices established under the 2010 Constitution's devolved government structure. During the reporting period, KTI supported a number of activities focused on getting Kenyans to prioritize accountable leadership at the voting booth, countering the longstanding tendency for Kenyans to vote along tribal lines rather than candidate qualifications. Activities in the quarter included support to local organizations to gather information used to inform voters about the performance of their elected leaders, profiling Kenyan role models, and fostering networking activities among local organizations identified as change agents in their communities.

Quarterly Report, September 15<sup>th</sup> - December 31<sup>st</sup> 2011

*Mitigating ICC Tension.* Another programmatic focus is mitigating the potential for violence as the International Criminal Court (ICC) process unfolds, in which six prominent public figures have been named. KTI has provided significant support to local actors to provide accurate and timely information about the status of the ICC proceedings as well as demystifying the ICC as an institution, both aimed at providing a counterweight to misinformation and fear tactics that have been employed by some of the defense teams. KTI has supported ICC centers in multi-ethnic hot spots, radio programming, and information dissemination through drama, among other activities. KTI has also provided support for monitoring hate speech, an unfortunate reality in Kenya.

## COUNTRY SITUATION

**The ICC–** Kenyans await mid-January 2012, when the ICC judges are expected to deliver a ruling on whether or not the cases against a top civil servant, two presidential contenders, a leading MP, a former police commissioner and a radio journalist are strong enough to bring them to trial for crimes against humanity. The ruling will undoubtedly have major ramifications on Kenya's general elections, given that two of the six are potential presidential candidates with much at stake for their careers. Louis Moreno Ocampo retired as the ICC prosecutor and was replaced by his deputy Ms. Bensouda, a Gambian national, who was nominated in December at the UN headquarters in New York to replace him. Ms. Bensouda was the most conspicuous in the prosecution team during the confirmation hearings of the six suspects. And she has given the earliest indications that like her predecessor she would ensure that the Kenyan cases go the full length of justice. Tensions were high as the confirmation of charges hearing took place, punctuated by reports of witness intimidation and inflammatory rhetoric along tribal lines. More positively, ordinary Kenyans can also be heard in the media and during KTI activities expressing willingness to respect the outcome of the ICC, and recognizing it as a legitimate legal institution.

**General elections-** Kenya's next general elections will likely be held either on August 14, 2012 or in December 2012 depending on a court ruling slated to be issued on January 13, 2012 by the country's high court judges. The ruling is hoped to put an end to lingering uncertainty and speculation that is exacerbating tensions in many areas. The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) have largely adopted proposals made by the now-defunct Andrew Ligale boundaries commission in creating the 80 new constituencies in preparation for the next general elections. The IEBC is expected to launch its preliminary report on the boundaries for wards and constituencies on January 9, 2011. The delimitation of boundaries exercise is expected to end by April this year, which will result in an increase of constituencies from the present 210 to 290. As the election date approaches, the number of stated presidential aspirants continues to increase, as well as aspirants seeking local offices. The presidential campaigns are heating up, with presidential aspirants crisscrossing the country seeking support from potential voters.

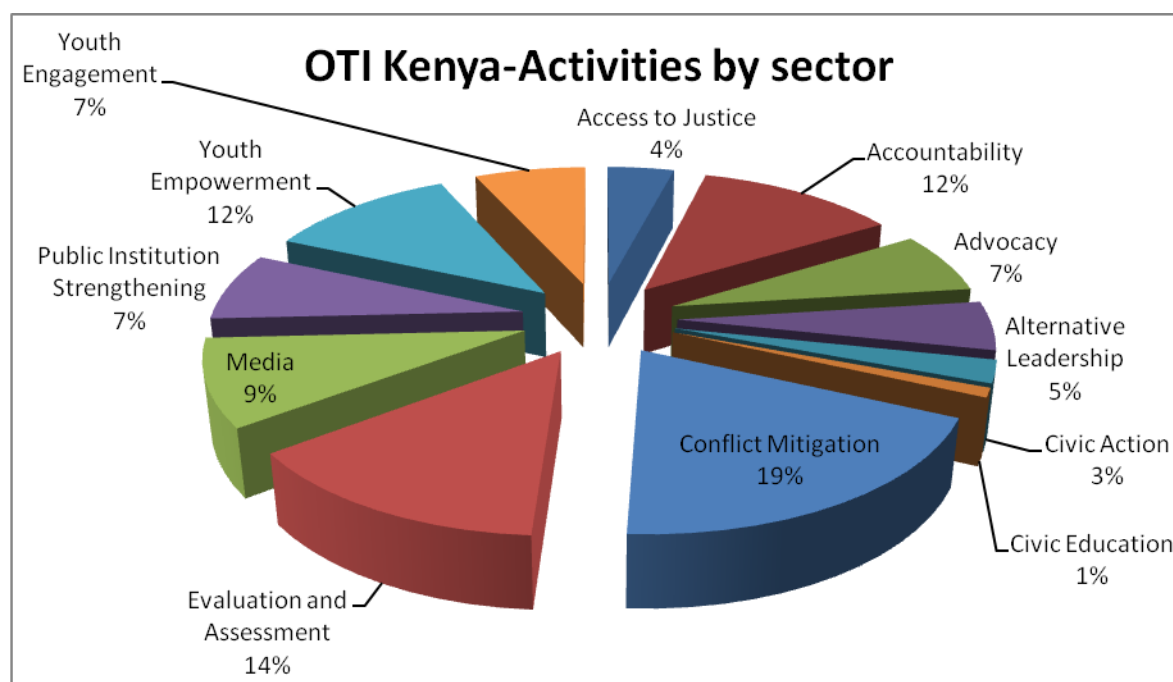
**The conflict in Somalia-** The Kenyan military battle against Al Shabaab in Somalia has entered the virtual sphere as the Al Shabaab spokesman has taken to posting comments on Twitter. Last month, it was also reported that a Kenyan military spokesperson had been providing regular Twitter updates on operations in Somalia. Meanwhile security in northern Kenya along the Somali border deteriorates with increasing retaliatory attacks by Al Shabaab, who are targeting civilians and military personnel. Grenades and landmines have been reported blowing up civilian and military vehicles in the region, and humanitarian efforts have been hampered by the worsening security situation in the Dadaab camp.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |               |   |   |
|---------------|---|---|
| January 2012  | - | ICC Judges to deliver ruling on whether or not charges against the Ocampo six will be confirmed |
| January 2012  | - | High court judges to deliver ruling on the date of Kenya's next general election                |
| February 2012 | - | Rolling assessment for the larger KTI field team  |

## GRANTS SUMMARY

To date OTI, through implementing partner Chemonics, has funded a total of **87** small grants totaling **\$2,085,774** million. During this reporting period a total of 42 activities totaling \$946,163 were cleared. The breakdown by sector is as follows:



## ACTIVITIES

**Enhancing the role of women in leadership roles** – To alleviate rising tensions around the ongoing ICC process, in which several Rift Valley politicians figure prominently, KTI provided a grant to [REDACTED], a local non-governmental organization, to raise political awareness among women in Kenya's Rift Valley. To counter high levels of unfounded speculation and inaccurate information circulating about the ICC and other key processes, [REDACTED] is working through women's *bunges*, or parliaments. The *bunges*, consisting of women leaders from two counties, serve as a platform for women to engage at the grassroots level on issues of regional and national importance, allowing them to play a more influential role in key processes. The model has received widespread support from women in neighboring counties, demonstrated in enthusiastic participation and high attendance.

**Promoting Media accountability** [REDACTED] is a forum recently established by field journalists in Kericho with support from KTI. [REDACTED] is promoting responsible journalism through enhancing the capacity of local journalist in Kenya's south Rift region, a traditional hot spot for ethnic conflict at election times. The grantee organized a one week training where journalists from the various media houses in the region were trained on basic tenets of good reporting. The journalists were accorded an opportunity look at news clips and articles done during the 2007/2008 post election violence, provide insight on what went wrong, and brainstorm ways to improve reporting approaching the next election cycle.

**Mitigating ICC tensions through drama** – The ongoing ICC process is a sore subject with Kenyans in many parts of the country. Educating Kenyans at the grass root level on the significance and need to respect the process is a way to mitigate the potential for conflict and counter misinformation spread by unscrupulous leaders. In Kenya drama has proven an effective tool to reach the masses, with appeal across the social divide. With support from

KTI, [REDACTED] is using drama as a tool to engage grassroots-level Kenyans in discussions on the significance and need for the ICC process. A play produced by the group and performed weekly in communities in the Naivasha area informs audiences about the ICC process and helps them form educated opinions about it. Using scenarios to inform audiences about the consequences of falling prey to political machinations, the plays have allowed participants from different tribes or sectors to engage together in discussion of the subject matter, mitigating the potential for tension to escalate as a result of misinformation. Performances have drawn large crowds and been successful in changing biased views.

## PROGRAM EVALUATION

Overall, the program continues to respond to a fluid political situation in Kenya. OTI's programming and planning model is well-suited to the current context, which holds a high degree of uncertainty. Soon after the unprecedented decision by the Kenyan government to send troops to Somalia, KTI held two rolling assessments, one focused on the Eastleigh component and the other project-wide, in which the field team was able to generate discussion around the implications for this on our program and develop responses.

KTI has also played a key role for the US in engagement on the coastal area of Kenya, which promises to be a major hot spot in the next few months. This has included engagement with the National Commission on Integration and Cohesion (NCIC) to assist with the establishment of a formal NCIC presence on the Coast.

In anticipation of mid-January announcements from the high court on elections and the ICC rulings, KTI has scheduled a two-day strategy discussion with key program staff for the week of January 18<sup>th</sup>, and the next full rolling assessment for February 2012.

At the same time, the team has increased its ability to move grants quickly from concept to clearance, although clearance rates have generally met set targets to date. The team worked hard to successfully clear a large number of pending grants, and has taken additional measures to manage this process more effectively, including setting clearer internal deadlines and requiring staff accountability. A number of new positions, including grants, procurement, and finance assistants, as well as the fielding of a long-term expatriate finance director will also allow greater agility in grant development and implementation.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

#### **Chemonics Points of Contact**

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Visit the OTI website at <http://www.usaid.gov>, key word "OTI"

# Office of Transition Initiatives

## KENYA/EASTLEIGH

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Implemented through USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI), the Kenya Transition Initiative (KTI) added a programming component to its overall program in July 2011, focused on youth empowerment in Nairobi's Eastleigh neighborhood and its surroundings. Youth form 60% of Eastleigh's total population and lack access to health facilities, education and youth employment opportunities. Coupled with the highly radicalized religious environment, Eastleigh youth are exposed to violent extremist ideology from groups such as Al-Shabaab.

This new component, now referred to as KTI-Eastleigh (or KTI-E), seeks to mitigate the push and pull factors which make youth vulnerable and easily susceptible or prone to extremism. To achieve this KTI-E works with a broad spectrum of local based organizations particularly within Eastleigh.

The KTI-E program has three major focus areas:

- 1) Build capacity among youth and community for moderation and non-violence
- 2) Empower the local youth
- 3) Livelihood support for youth

These focus areas contribute to achieve the program's main objective:

- Build moderation, foster identity and self-confidence in at risk youth in Eastleigh in order to enable them to reject extremism.

### GRANTS SUMMARY

Since the initiation of the KTI-E component in July 2011, KTI has funded 17 activities totaling \$246,237. A total of 13 activities totaling \$202,350 were cleared during this reporting period.

#### Ongoing activities

**Promoting livelihoods –** [REDACTED], a local NGO based in Nairobi, with support from KTI conducted four week training for youth in Eastleigh aimed at providing them with necessary skills to engage in business. The training encouraged and equipped participants to venture into self-employment as a mechanism for livelihood. The training programs included both classroom training and hands-on field work. The trainings were interactive and participants were enthusiastic about the skills they learned. The events concluded with a graduation ceremony where certificates were awarded to the participants. In the words of one participant, "I now know how to manage my business and budget my income to be successful to my community."

**Fostering cultural and recreational identity –** Youth in Eastleigh have few recreational or cultural outlets, and idle youth are easily engaged in criminal pursuits, drug use, and recruit efforts by extremist elements. During this reporting period, KTI supported two Eastleigh-based grantees, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED], a volunteer organization, organized an unprecedented women's basketball tournament between ten teams in Eastleigh. The tournament included interactive discussions on themes such as good citizenship and gender rights during breaks. Spectators benefited from the introduction of conflict mitigation and gender empowerment tools during their attendance at games. This tournament, the first of its kind, attracted both Somali and non-Somali teams who were able to interact and share stories and experiences with each other in a positive fashion, which is critical as anti-Somali sentiment has recently increased in Kenya. The other grantee, [REDACTED], organized a series of 24 football matches for Somali youth living in Eastleigh, with teams comprised of employed and unemployed youth, and youth in secondary and tertiary educational institutions. The

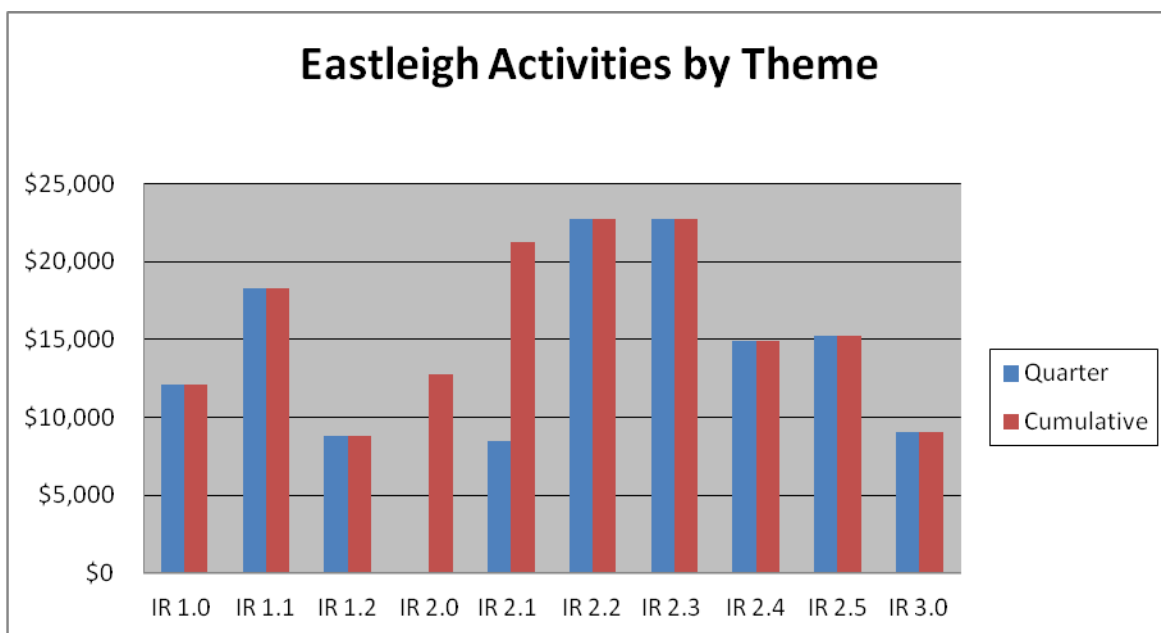
tournament was highly successful as games drew in large crowds of spectators. Through the activity, fans were engaged in interactive discussion on themes such as good citizenship, human rights, and the constitution prior to the game's start, at half time and at the end. Youth participated actively in the discussions, and weighed in with opinions on current issues such as the increased presence of Al-Shabaab in Eastleigh and how the Kenyan government's attempt to flush out al-Shabaab in Somalia has impacted their lives.

**Mapping Eastleigh Actors-** During this quarter KTI facilitated a stakeholder mapping exercise in order to provide a better understanding of the various institutions in Eastleigh and the work they do. The mapping exercise is now complete and the information is currently being used by the KTI Advisory Committee and KTI-E staff to inform programming.

### Pending activities

- **CHXEAS013 Eastleigh Recreation Centre** – This activity will aid in the refurbishment of a basketball court and library at the Eastleigh Fellowship Center, one of the few existing recreational facilities in the area.
- **CHXEAS017 Weekly Somali Youth Debates** - This grant seeks to hold weekly debates among Somali youth in which participants will discuss issues on extremism facing youth in Eastleigh, creating a constructive peaceful environment for youth to express themselves and interact with others of divergent viewpoints on sensitive topics.
- **CHXEAS018 From the Graves to the Grounds** - The planned activities will give youth a platform to express themselves, educate one other, and listen to ex-militia and gang members groups who are making positive change in their lives.
- **CHXEAS021 Eastleigh's Women's' Poetry Slam-** The activity proposes to explore the explicit the role women play in fostering messages of peace through poetry and songs.
- **CHXEAS022 Promote Moderation, Interfaith Dialogue and Confidence in at Risk youth-** This grant seeks to open doors for dialogue among people of all faiths and cultures in Eastleigh that is necessary to combat intolerance, discrimination and 'self-righteousness' often fueled by extremism.
- **CHXEAS024 Eastleigh Steering Committee-** This is a DDGS grant to provide logistical support during Advisory Committee meetings.

The bar graph below illustrates KTI-E expenditure on grants by Sub-Intermediate Result (I.R.) and themes by quarter and cumulatively. It should be noted that some of the assignments of activities to sub-I.R.s may be adjusted, and will be captured in the next quarterly report.





## PROGRAM EVALUATION

- During this reporting period, KTI-E held the first Eastleigh Advisory Committee meeting, in Eastleigh in November 2011. The meeting convened a group of 20 influential community members who interacted with KTI staff to provide feedback and input into KTI-E priorities and activities. The meeting was extremely successful, with participants expressing appreciation for the initiative and support for the work KTI is doing on the ground. A second meeting will be held in January 2012.
- The rate of grant development and clearance this quarter has also risen from the previous quarter, with a total of 13 of the total 17 small grants cleared during this reporting period.
- KTI-E held its first rolling assessment, on the 25<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> of October, in Nairobi. The meeting focused on discussion on the current Kenyan military incursion in Somalia, and its potential and current impact both in Eastleigh and elsewhere in Kenya. The event also included a discussion with current partners and topical experts, including a senior staff for a local member of parliament and a local radio celebrity.
- A grants assistant has been hired to provide additional support to the implementation of activities in Eastleigh.
- Implementation of the SenseMaker tool has made progress during this quarter. Stories are being collected with the assistance of scribes, who are performing well overall, and a contract has been signed with a local firm to enter data collected into the Cognitive Edge website.

## NEXT STEPS

- An Eastleigh Advisory Committee sub-committee meeting will be held in January 2012, with a full meeting in March 2012.
- KTI-E staff will participate in the KTI-wide rolling assessment planned for February 2012.